Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had allotted 79 rural and semi-urban centres to United Bank of India for opening branches in the North-Eastern Region. The bank has opened offices at 65 centres. Thus, it would not be correct to state that United Bank of India has failed to open branches in the North Eastern Region. The reason for delay of opening branches at the allotted centres has been lack of basic infrastructural facilities. In addition, in Manipur the security aspect has also been a constraint in opening branches. RBI has advised the Bank to approach the State Government for providing necessary infrastructural facilites. The validity period of the pending licences has been extended upto 31st March, 1993 to enable the banks to open branches at the allotted centres.

Functioning of United Bank of India, Guwahati

3226. SHRI DAVID LEDGER: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the zonal office of the United Bank of India at Guwahati has failed to fulill its objectives due to the apathetic attitude of the Banks Headquarters at Calcutta as a result of which the industrial relations of the bank are suffering; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to improve the situation and restore the credibility of the bank and the confidence of the employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) Information is being collected, and to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

World Bank Assistance for Health and Education Programmes

3227. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are in the process of finalising a Rs. 500 crore aid from the World Bank under the social safety net programme for several health and education programme; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

Recently a credit for $ 500 million has been negotiated with the World Bank for the Social Safety Net Programme. The main areas covered by the programme are:—

(i) Primary education

(ii) Primary health care

(iii) Disease Control and Nutrition

(iv) National Renewal Fund (NRF) for workers affected by Industrial restructuring.

Offer of Credit by Germany

3228. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the German Government has offered a credit of Rs. 150 crores at a very low rate of interest with repayment to be made over 50 years and a 10 year moratorium; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) A Financial Cooperation Agreement providing DM 427.304 million (approx. Rs. 683.69 crores) for the year 1992 has